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**„Saporoshez Tour 2009 for peace and friendship among the people“
Overland and by sea around the Black and Caspian Sea
From April till June 2009**

We, the Saporoshez-IG Deutschland, are an Oldtimer Club representing in Germany about hundred friends of a car known as ‚Saporoshez‘ or ‚SAS‘. Only a few of those most famous Ukrainian car survived in Germany.

Mr. Bernd Hartmann is Vice-President of our club. Upon invitation of our partner-organisation in L‘viv, Ukraine, he organised in 2007 together with Mrs. Iryna Denys, Vice-President of ‚Auto-Fan-Club ZAZ Kozak‘ a tour of six German Saporoshez-Teams to Ukraine. In Ukraine about ten more Saporoshez joined the group. The tour had a broad coverage in TV and other media. The Ukrainian Minister for Internal Affairs - among others - welcomed the group in Kyjiv. Also the SAS-automobile plant in Zapporishshja, where in 1960 the first ‚Saporoshez‘ was built, organised an official reception and a visit to the production plant. The whole trip took up to 8.000 km through Ukraine and the neighbouring countries.

In the same year we from the Saporoshez-IG Deutschland invited our friends from Ukraine to Germany to attend our annual Saporoshez meeting and OMMMA -the biggest international Oldtimer meeting in East Germany. Again Bernd Hartmann and Iryna Denys organised together this event for six Ukrainian teams - all with historic Saporoshez 965 - a tour of around 5.000 km to Germany and six other countries (Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, France, Luxembourg and Belgium). The group met several Oldtimer clubs on the way and were received by officials in Freiburg and Kirn. We even managed to visit the European Parliament in Luxembourg - something very symbolic!

.../2

Page 2

Both tours proved the reliability of the Ukrainian cars known as Saporoshez. Most important of all was that people of East and West got together. The German group faced a tremendous hospitality in Ukraine by club members, officials and ordinary people. We are very happy that also the Ukrainian teams visiting Western Europe encountered the same kind of hospitality - repair stations working for free, Campsites keeping open until late night, restaurants hosting for free the tired peoples at 2 o'clock in the morning.

The good co-operation and harmony between East and West also had an effect on Iryna Denys und Bernd Hartmann. In May 2008 they engaged themselves – on a big Saporoshez meeting in Erfurt. A picture can be seen on the front-page of our web-site www.saporoshez-968.de.vu. In August they married - off course with their two Saporoshez and many Ukrainian and German Saporoshez friends. Now they live in Germany.

2009 the Saporoshez Tour will lead around the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. 21 independent countries (and some more autonomous regions) are on the way: **Germany, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Nakhchichevan Autonomous Republic, Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Slovakia and Czech Republic.**

The trip will hopefully reach Wismar after 15.000 km where our club will celebrate the anniversary of our 10th Saporoshez Oldtimer meeting!

One important intention of this tour is - as it had been in the previous tours - to encourage people of East and West to come together, to enrich each other, to promote a mutual understanding, to overcome hate and mistrust and to find a way for a common future in peace and friendship.

Because of the special circumstances (the long way and the amount of time needed) other members of our club were unfortunately not able to join. Nevertheless we are convinced that also this couple - representing East and West - can give an example and contribute a piece in achieving a relationship in harmony and peace.

We kindly request all authorities to extend to Mrs. Iryna Denys and Mr. Bernd Hartmann every assistance and courtesy on their tour around the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

We thank you very much for your kind assistance and support.

Peter Loschinski
President
Saporoshez-IG Deutschland

PS: Pictures from the Saporoshez Tour 2007 to Ukraine can be seen under: www.saporoshez-968.de.vu
Pictures from the Saporoshez Tour 2007 to Germany and neighbouring countries can be seen on www.zazkosak.com